

# JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

## Israel changes Sinai settlement from military to civilian hands

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (APF). — An Israeli settlement in the Sinai's Rafiah salient passed from military to civilian hands yesterday, when it became a kibbutz with about 150 inhabitants. The kibbutz was founded several years ago by the Nahal corps of soldier-farmer pioneers, many of whom remained after demobilisation. About 2,000 people came to celebrate the transfer, which coincided with the first anniversary of the neighbouring village of Tsoufa, to show their support for Israeli residents in the area.

## Fighting flares in south Lebanon

BEIRUT, Jan. 18 (R). — Three Palestinian commandos were killed and others injured in renewed heavy exchanges with Lebanese rightists in south Lebanon today, the rightwing Falangist radio reported. The deaths brought to ten the number reported killed in four days of intermittent shelling between the two sides. The shelling followed a series of bomb explosions in Beirut in pro-Libyan or pro-Palestinian newspaper offices, a school and near the Libyan ambassador's residence last Saturday.

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## Mitsui agreement boosts Aqaba fertiliser project

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 18 — The Aqaba chemical fertiliser plant — one of Jordan's two biggest industrial projects and a pillar of the national economic strategy of increasing self-reliance by exploiting domestic mineral resources during the current five-year plan — received a major boost this week with the agreement for the Japanese Mitsui company to provide technical assistance for the scheme.

Mitsui Toatsu Chemicals, Inc. replaces Agrico company, of Tulsa, Oklahoma (USA), which withdrew amicably from the project last summer after a management change in the USA. Unlike Agrico, however, which held a 25.1 per cent share of the equity capital of the fertiliser company, Mitsui does not have a share of the capital, but is contracted to act as technical supervisor during the construction phase of the plant and for three years after production starts.

Production by mid 1980

The General Manager of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Co. Ltd., Dr. Mahmud Mardi, told the Jordan Times in an interview here today that the construction phase is expected to take some 30 months, with production expected to start in mid-1980.

Mitsui, which is a phosphatic fertiliser manufacturer itself, will provide 17 technical people during the construction phase, and 27 during the first three years of production. It will also train Jordanian technicians throughout the period of the contract, both in Mitsui plants and in other fertiliser installations throughout the world, Dr. Mardi said.

Financing by March

Dr. Mardi also said that the financing package for the project will be finalised in March, after a Jordanian team headed by National Planning Council President Dr. Hanna Odeh makes a tour in February of several Gulf states whose leading institutions are interested in providing loans to, or taking equity participations in, the project.

The total cost of the project is put at \$325 million. After the Gulf financing bodies decide on their lending or equity interests, the fertiliser company will still need to borrow between \$20 million and \$50 million on the international capital markets, Dr. Mardi said.

Part of the financing package involves raising the company's capital from \$60 million to \$100 million. The equity shareholdings now are distributed as follows: 51.1 per cent for the Jordan government (which includes the 25.1 per cent shareholding bought back from Agrico), 25 per cent for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, five per cent for the International Finance Corporation (a World Bank affiliate), and five per cent for the Arab Mining Company (a multinational, Arab League-sponsored company).

Between five and ten per cent of the shares are being reserved for purchase by the Jordanian public, and the government may reduce its 51.1 per cent shareholding to allow some of the Gulf financing institutions to take a stake in the project. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development is one institution that has expressed interest in the Aqaba fertiliser project from the start.

(Continued on p. 2)

## King urges Arab nations support Somalia in this grave situation



AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — At the end of a second round of talks here with Somali President, Mohammed Said Barre, His Majesty King Hussein said in a statement that the situation in the Horn of Africa is grave and critical and cannot be ignored or allowed to deteriorate by the world. "All Arab states are duty bound to back brotherly Somalia, an Arab country, facing direct threats that may extend and expand and bring the whole area face to face with danger," the King was quoted by the Jordan News Agency as saying.

Earlier King Hussein and President Barre attended a luncheon in the Somali leader's honour, hosted by Premier Mudar Badran. The two leaders also visited the Martyr's Monument.

## King meets N. Yemen envoy

## France will refuse Somalia arms because of war in Ethiopia

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Hashemite Court, this evening the North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Asnaji who delivered to him a message from President of the Yemeni Command Council Lt.-Col. Ahmad Hussein Al Ghashmi.

The message concerns the endeavours now being made to unify Arab ranks and bilateral relations. The minister arrived here today from Saudi Arabia on a two-day visit.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Mr. Asnaji said that the Republic of North Yemen appreciates King Hussein's efforts to unify Arab ranks.

He spoke of a "critical stage" in Middle East affairs and warned that Israel wanted to annex occupied Arab territories and deny the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Asnaji is due to go on to Damascus and Cairo carrying messages to Presidents Hafez Assad and Anwar Sadat.

PARIS, Jan. 18 (R). — France will turn down any Somali request for arms supplies as long as it considered Somalia to be the aggressor in the Ogaden conflict with Ethiopia, informed sources said today.

They were commenting on reports that Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre had renewed appeals for western arms to meet an imminent Soviet backed attack from Ethiopia.

French policy was that foreign powers should not intervene in the Horn of Africa, and the Soviet military presence in Ethiopia was therefore to be deplored.

The sources said France considered that Somalia was in fact challenging established frontiers, and was the aggressor in the Ogaden conflict.

In Ethiopia a member of the ruling military council today flatly denied that there were any Cuban or Soviet military advisers in Ethiopia or that Soviet warships had helped in the defence of the Eritrean port of Massawa.

Major Berhanu Bayih, a member of the foreign affairs committee of the council or "Dergue", was referring to U.S. estimates of up to 2,000 Cuban and 1,000 Soviet military advisers in Ethiopia.

Maj. Berhanu said there were 300 to 350 Cuban medical personnel and diplomats, and about 100 from the Soviet Union in Ethiopia. Asked whether his country opposed in principle the deployment of foreign troops in Africa and Ethiopia, he replied: "It depends. We have our sovereignty and it's up to Ethiopia to decide".

## Owen meets Ethiopian official

LONDON, Jan. 18 (APF). — British Foreign Secretary David Owen was meeting here today with a high-ranking Ethiopian foreign minister official, Major Ito Dawit Giorgis, two days after the Somalia request for western aid to thwart an alleged "imminent invasion" of its territory by Ethiopia.

A foreign office spokesman said that Maj. Giorgis's visit had been scheduled some time ago.

## Egyptian team ordered home from Jerusalem as Israeli attitude to talks angers Sadat

CAIRO, Jan. 18 (R). — President Sadat tonight recalled his foreign minister Ibrahim Kamel from critical talks in Jerusalem and the whole future of his Mideast peace initiative looked in peril. Official sources said Mr. Sadat had also cancelled parallel talks due to have begun in Cairo tomorrow between the defence ministers of Egypt and Israel.

Information Minister Abdel Moneim Sawi announced on Cairo radio that President Sadat had called for a special session of parliament on Saturday to outline the reasons for his decision, the agency said.

MENA said Egypt was upset by Israeli behaviour at the first meeting of the political committee set up between the two countries as part of efforts to reach peace in the region.

President Sadat's move followed blunt public exchanges between Israeli and Egyptian delegates.

Mr. Kamel, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met briefly earlier today in an effort to try and improve the atmosphere.

It was not immediately known whether a meeting of the parallel military committee, due in Cairo tomorrow between Egyptian War Minister Mohammad Gamassi and Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman would go ahead as planned.

The agency quoted Mr. Sawi as saying that President Sadat decided to recall Mr. Kamel because of statements by Mr. Dayan and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin indicated Israel was offering "partial solutions which cannot lead to a Middle East permanent and just peace."

Programmes interrupted

Cairo radio and television interrupted their programmes to broadcast Mr. Sawi's announcement.

MENA quoted Mr. Sawi as saying that President Sadat had taken "this decisive decision so that the (Jerusalem) negotiations do not continue revolving in a vicious circle or move to side issues."

The minister said Egypt's stand was "clear and frank since (Mr. Sadat's) peace initiative began and this stand has never changed. There was a hope that the other side (Israel) would reciprocate this clarity with a similar clarity."

Mr. Sawi said Egypt had made it clear from the start of President Sadat's peace initiative that he wanted a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab soil and self-determination for the Palestinians.

In a dinner speech last night, Mr. Begin appeared to reject these positions.

The Egyptian spokesman added: "The world conscience has agreed to these (Egyptian) principles... therefore it is unacceptable to resort to bargaining, outbidding and wasting time."

He added: "Egypt wants peace, peace for all the region and the entire world... Egypt will remain loyal to the peace cause, a just, honourable and lasting peace. Her goal is also security for the region."

ce, peace for all the region and the entire world... Egypt will remain loyal to the peace cause, a just, honourable and lasting peace. Her goal is also security for the region."

## Shock decision stuns Israeli and American delegations to talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (R). — Egyptian delegates to the Middle East peace talks packed their bags and headed for home tonight, saying that President Anwar Sadat was angry at statements made by Israeli leaders.

News of the recall of the Egyptian delegation first received from Cairo Radio, stunned American and Israeli delegates to the talks which opened here yesterday.

U.S. delegation spokesman Hoddin Carter told newsmen he was unable to give any explanation for the recall.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance asked Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Kamel about the report, Mr. Carter said, and the Egyptian minister confirmed that it was true.

Mr. Kamel said "we are going round in circles. It is a vicious circle."

This came two hours after Mr. Kamel's spokesman had told reporters that today's talks were useful, adding: "We will continue with them."

Shortly after this, Mr. Vance held a meeting with Israeli Foreign Secretary Moshe Dayan. It was after Mr. Vance conveyed word of this meeting to Mr. Kamel that the orders came from Cairo to leave.

Tonight the Egyptian plane which originally brought the Egyptian delegation to the talks returned to Tel Aviv.

Capt. Mohammad Nagi said he had been called about an hour earlier to fly to Tel Aviv immediately and was now waiting to hear when he would return to Cairo.

The U.S. spokesman said Mr. Vance was obviously surprised by the Egyptian decision. He had been due to dine with Mr. Kamel tonight.

Mr. Carter understood the Egyptians would be leaving within a few hours.

Israeli officials said they had heard nothing about the move at the Hilton Hotel, venue of the conference.

The head of the Israeli government press office, Zev Hefets, commenting on the Cairo decision, told reporters: "I certainly hope it is not the end of the talks but I am sure it is not the end of the negotiating process. Let us hope it is just a pause."

Mr. Vance had been due to leave for Cairo on Friday. Mr. Carter said he did not know whether these plans would now be changed.

Reporters in the hotel where the talks were being held saw Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan hurriedly leaving the hotel. Neither would answer reporters' questions.

## Zablocki delegation urges Israeli withdrawal

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (R). — A U.S. congressional delegation said here today Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories was essential for achieving peace in the Middle East.

The 15-member delegation of the House of Representatives international relations committee left Israel today after a three-day visit during which they met Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Delegation head, Mr. Clement Zablocki, told reporters at Ben Gurion airport here: "We believe that in order to achieve peace there is a need to return (occupied Arab) territories."

## Supply Ministry battles on many fronts to keep pace with inflation

In a two part series we report the campaign launched by the Ministry of Supply to keep the cost of living in Jordan down. In this first article we look at the overall plans of the Ministry.

By Ian Kellas  
Special to the Jordan Times

Nearly JD 13 million has been allocated by the Ministry of Supply to an ambitious complex of projects aimed at fighting Jordan's inflation rate.

It all goes back to 1974. At that time Abdulla Hamad, the ministry's projects officer explained in a recent interview with the Jordan Times, "the world was faced with a tremendous problem in terms of shortage of certain commodities which led to price increases."

Jordan was particularly vulnerable to this economic crisis, being an importer both of oil and of a large number of processed consumer goods. With a large balance of trade deficit there was little that could be done to offset the surging rise of import prices.

So, on March 20, 1974, the Ministry of Supply was founded to ensure the local availability of essential commodities.

Part of the ministry's function is to buy in bulk from abroad, under restricted import schemes. There is, for instance a protocol with Egypt whereby Jordan buys (mainly rice) from Egypt to the value of its sales to that country. The ministry took over the management of that arrangement.

Storage facilities were expanded at Amman, Karak, Ma'an, Tafila, Aqaba, Salt and Irbid to stock not only rice but also sugar, flour and tea imports, among other commodities.

Government subsidies were placed on certain commodities — notably on flour (big enough to pose Jordan something of a smuggling problem), but also on sugar. Last year the government spent close to JD ten million to stop sugar prices rising above 155 fils per kilo. Without this, prices would have leapt up to 350 fils.

But the pace has been forced since November 1976, when Marwan Kassim took over as Minister of Supply. Since then no less than six major projects have been launched.

The ministry's storage complex at Russeifa (between Amman and Zarqa) has been expanded so that its total capacity is now 80,000 metric tons. This has involved the building of four new hangars.

The Civil Service Consumer Co-operative sprang into existence in April last year. A number of stores offering basic commodities for sale exclusively to government employees have been set up — one in Amman one in Zarqa, one to be opened any day at Irbid and others under plan. The goods are offered for sale at customs-free or subsidised prices. The cooperative serves a total of about 120,000 people (30,000 card holders), the families of government ministers, drivers, teachers, administrators etc.

Marwan Kassim sees this as a way of compensating civil servants for the unequal rate their salaries have run against rising prices. The co-operative is "to give an incentive for people to stay in government and be lured into government", he says.

If you can't beat inflation, freeze it. Frozen meat is much less expensive than the chilled meat that Jordan imports now (mainly from East Europe and Australia), so two cold storage complexes are to be built. One will be at Jweida (15 kms.

along the road to Madaba); the other at a site seven kms. out of Aqaba.

Under construction

Each of the stores has a capacity of 1,500 metric tons. The contract for building and designing them, which is worth JD 1.2 million is being handled by Sumitomo Shoji Kaisha Ltd. of Tokyo, a company which is now to Jordan but which has handled similar contracts elsewhere in the Arab World.

The stores are already under construction. They are to be finished by the end of this year and should mean 30-40 per cent lower prices in the shops on the full range of meats — white as well as red.

On Nov. 15 last year, shops were warned by the ministry that as from Jan. 1 1978 every item on display in their stores would have to be marked with its price. The minister claims, on the basis of a survey carried out in Zarqa, that prices have come down between 10-15 per cent in the 45 days since the announcement was made.

The ministry already has a price and quality-control inspectorate but Mr. Kassim plans to start a consumer protection society which would act as a general watchdog on consumer affairs.

But the ministry's biggest efforts are to go towards producing cheap bread. "We look at bread as the most basic commodity that should be provided for the country", says Mr. Kassim. If there are bread shortages there is a serious risk of political and social unrest.

The government has been paying subsidies of around 30 per cent on flour in order to keep the price of a kilo of bread at 60 fils.

Massive scale

But flour is almost double the price of wheat, and Jordan at least for the moment is dependent on large-scale imports of the processed commodity.

The plan is to undertake the whole process of bread making on a massive scale, from the stage at which wheat is unloaded at Aqaba right up to the sale of 190,000 loaves a day.

This project involves two giant grain silos, a flour mill and two automatic bakeries. The project will for the first time put the entire length of the Amman-Aqaba railway line back into regular operation.

Full details of the scheme will be reported in the second part of this feature which will appear in Friday's Jordan Times

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# New government department has plans for national information retrieval network and central archives complex in Amman

In a two part series starting today the Jordan Times looks at the people and institutions who work behind the scenes to keep the government's records and files in order and compile the figures for the planners to work from. In this first part we report on the recently established Department of National Libraries, Documentation and Archives. Tomorrow's article will report on the Department of Statistics.

By John Rigg  
 Photos by Marianne Pearson  
 Special to the Jordan Times

As an independent directorate under the Ministry of Culture and Youth, The Department of National Libraries, Documentation and Archives is working to establish and develop a national information network that will eventually benefit not only your local bureaucrat, but decision makers and scholars from all walks of life.

Established in April, 1977, the directorate, under the Director-General Dr. Ahmad H. Sharkas, is concerned with all aspects relating to the field of historical and contemporary information in Jordan. Dr. Sharkas, former professor at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, received his doctorate in Near East Languages and Civilization with a concentration on Documental and Intellectual History. He spoke of the goals he has set for the directorate, to the Jordan Times.



Hamoud Al Humti interviews the chief clerk at the Amman Land Authority. He is a graduate of the Jordan Institute of Social Work and has been with the Directorate since it was established a year ago.

### Special libraries

The planned information network will include special public libraries which will be situated throughout the country, as well as information centres in all government agencies. They will work in conjunction with what will eventually become a National Information Complex in Amman. Material to be included will be the Royal Archives; research papers; historical documents; folk-lore documents; Arah manuscripts in private libraries; treaties and agreements; maps and other documents of cultural, educational, social or political value.

This network will focus on a National Information Complex, with headquarters comprising the National Library along with an Archives Centre, computer and microfilm rooms

and the offices of the Directorate.

The computer, in effect, will be a data bank. That is, it will act as a depository for all the information coming from the various sources. Publications from these sources will give the initial information, but eventually computer hook-ups will be inaugurated with, for example, the Department of Statistics. This information retrieval system linked to all the data sources, will be capable of providing almost instant services nationally and then internationally within the Arab community.

Before all this takes place though, the staff of the various ministries and agencies will be educated with regards to the identification and importance of archival documents, and ultimately the care which must be taken in handling them. With the very limited space available, many ministries are literally overflowing with documents that need to

be categorised and filed.

The Income Tax Department is a prime example of too much material to cope with and too little office space to accommodate it. They often have to stack their files in the corridors.

This will be remedied when the relevant personnel are trained in what material is to be retained and what is to be disregarded. Much valuable space is occupied by redundant material, and consequently the more important documents suffer damage by being stacked in cloak rooms, rest areas and the aforementioned hallways.

Dr. Sharkas says, "It is a difficult job, but it's interesting and very badly needed. I treat it like a thesis that needs a lot of work."

This backlog of work has left very little time for any solid achievements, but in June, 1977, the Directorate did manage in sponsoring a book exhibition in honour of the Silver Jubilee of King Hussein, in the Palace of Culture.

It was the first of its kind in Jordan and displayed the works of Jordanian writers and also foreign writers whose subject was a Jordanian theme. A bibliography of these works has been published by the Directorate, as a first step in organising a comprehensive national bibliography of Jordan.

### 16 point questionnaire

Lina Mola, a researcher with the Directorate, is, at the moment working on a project to compile and assess all documentary and archival material within the government ministries. It's basis is a 16 point questionnaire, which has now been completed and returned. Miss Mola mentions that she, with a team of two more researchers, visited 88 ministries and interviews took place in each case. The questionnaire tried to clarify what kind of material each ministry had on file, as well as storage facilities, availability, preservation, and the qualifications of the person in charge of the filing systems in each.

Analysing the results of these questionnaires and intervi-

ews is the next step. Dr. Hamna Qagish, a Doctor of Public Administration who specialised in filing studies is part of this team.

He remarked that, "each of the 16 questions is a major task of analysis in itself."

Reports have to be written on each question in each of the 88 questionnaires. When the whole report is finished, it will go to a conference table where the problems and recommendations will be worked out before it reaches the relevant authorities where the major decisions will be made.

At present, there are only three researchers in the Directorate.



The Director-General Ahmad Sharkas has a PhD from Harvard University and a Masters degree in library and information science from the State University of New York at Albany.

## A beast that can be brought to its senses

For every day that the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations drag on, it should become more clear that the Israelis are slowly being driven into a corner from where they will either pounce madly, or come out bravely and willing to accept the reasonable peace dictates of the entire world. The tough speech and demeanour of Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel at the opening session of the talks in Jerusalem this week startled the Israelis, but what was missed in the commotion was the fact that the Egyptian peace dictates were repeated almost to the letter -- and certainly in spirit -- by the American Secretary of State, our good friend Mr. Vance.

The pressures that are thus being built up by the current negotiations will only continue to be built up, and will be felt primarily by the Israelis. We have reached the point of face-to-face negotiations, and those negotiations have quickly focussed on the need for a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and a recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. On both points, the Israelis refuse to accept the minimum demands position of the Arabs, and refuse to accept the consensus of over 130 countries of the world, including the United States and Western Europe.

In such circumstances, pressures will naturally build up upon the party that is an obstacle to peace -- in this case, clearly the Israelis. History shows that when they feel pressured, the Israelis either start shooting, or retreat into even more extreme positions of selfishness and, to them, historically and biblically justified imperialism. The interesting situation today, in Jerusalem, has the American secretary of state sitting in on those discussions during which the Israelis will show their true colours, and this will make it that much more difficult for the Israelis to carry on with their intransigence. They are being cornered, which is an opportunity for the world to bring them to their senses.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I, on Wednesday, said the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee continues negotiations while observers say viewpoints are still incompatible over the subjects in the agenda of the talks. His Majesty King Hussein told French Television, on Monday night, that the Middle East is now at the crossroads until basic principles of peace are clarified. The coming few days should show Israel's true position since the Arabs have put forward the basic conditions for peace as they see it while Israel has continuously rejected them. Since the Israeli proposals of Premier Menachem Begin cannot be a basis for peace, the near future will result in one of two situations: either Israel will accept the Arab conditions for a just peace or it will refuse them and open the door wide for the worst of possibilities.

AL DUSTOUR said Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said, on Tuesday, that "concessions and compromises" are demanded from both sides for peace -- and he added Israel's preconditions which rejected three things. He said Israel says no to Palestinian self-determination in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; no to a Palestinian state and no to full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. One wonders how there could be concessions or compromises after these negative conditions? The Arabs have already conceded and compromised more than they fairly can be asked to, and until now, they are still waiting for the least Israeli reciprocity. The Arabs have accepted the principles of negotiations and a peace settlement and they have offered guarantees of security to Israel to exist in the area in return for full Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in 1967 -- which international law does not allow Israel to control -- and to return for Palestinian self-determination -- which is also guaranteed by international law. Israel, however, has yet to reciprocate and one wonders what does Mr. Dayan mean by "concessions and compromises"?

## Mitsui agreement boosts Aqaba fertiliser project

(Continued from p. 1)

Marketing partner sought

Dr. Mardi also revealed that he will soon start approaching international companies with an eye to working out an agreement with a suitable partner to provide expertise in marketing the fertiliser that will be produced as of mid-1980.

One of the possibilities that is being discussed now is pooling the international marketing operations of Jordan's three big mineral companies, those producing phosphate, potash from the Dead Sea and chemical fertilisers at Aqaba.

The \$325 million total cost of the project includes the port that will have to be built especially for export purposes, though other Jordanian industries could also make use of the port facility.

The major construction contracts for the civil works of the fertiliser plant, the purchase of all required equipment and the construction of the port are expected to be awarded this spring or early summer, Dr. Mardi said. Their total value will be over \$275 million.

Earthclearing started

The overall engineering design responsibility and the construction supervision contract was awarded last year to the French company Spie Batignolles. This involves overall design work for a phosphoric acid unit with a capacity of 1,250 tons per day, two sulphuric acid units with a capacity each of 1,800 tons per day, and two granulation units with a capacity each of 1,200 tons per day, as well as the port and all allied infrastructure, such as roads, housing and power.

Earthclearing work has already started on the site along the southern coastal strip at Aqaba, just north of the Saudi Arabian border. The local contractors Hudaib Shand are carrying out this part of the scheme.

Given the complexity of the civil works yet to be done, it is most likely that major international contractors will win the contracts to build the production units and the port.

The production process to be used at the fertiliser plant is rather straightforward. Phosphate rock mined in Jordan is mixed with sulphuric acid to produce phosphoric acid. This is then mixed with ammonia (imported from the Gulf states) to produce the "granular" fertiliser that is ready to export. Two kinds of fertiliser will be produced, monoammonium phosphate and diammonium phosphate, which differ in the amount of nitrogen they contain.

Plants require three main nutrients -- phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium -- and the fertiliser produced at Aqaba will contain phosphorus and nitrogen. When the Dead Sea potash project gets underway in several years' time, the third element -- potassium -- will then be locally available, and plans are in hand to mix the chemical fertiliser with the potash fertiliser to produce a very high-grade "compound" fertiliser that contains all three essential plant nutrients.

The main export markets for the different kinds of fertilisers to be produced in Jordan are in southern and eastern Asia, Dr. Mardi pointed out.

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## National News Roundup

### Joint Jordan-Syria industry committee meets

DAMASCUS, Jan. 18 (JNA). — The joint Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Coordination Committee held a meeting here today to continue its discussion about the promotion of industrial coordination and integration between the two countries.

### Jordan to attend WHO seminar in Tehran

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — Jordan will participate in the seven-day health seminar to be held in Tehran on Feb. 26 under the auspices of the World Health Organisation. Jordan will be represented by Acting Minister of Health Abdel Raouf Rawabdeh.

### Speaker of Upper House prepares for Arab Parliamentary Union meeting

DAMASCUS, Jan. 18 (JNA). — The Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talbouni, the current chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, will leave here for Lebanon tomorrow on a two-day visit for talks with the Chairman of the Lebanese Parliament on the working papers of the Union's meeting to be held in Abu Dhabi within a few months. Mr. Talbouni, who is currently visiting Syria, held talks on the same subject with the Chairman of the Syrian People's Council Mohammad Ali Halabi and the Chairman of the National Palestinian Council Khaled Al Fakhour.

### Gold and foreign currency reserves up on last year

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — Jordan's gold and foreign currency reserves during last Nov. were JD 57,745 million higher than they had been in the same month in 1976. Sources at the Central Bank of Jordan said that during last Oct. Jordan's assets amounted to JD 267,523 million as against JD 209,788 million during the same month in 1976.

### Irbid Council discusses comprehensive plan

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — The Executive Council for the Irbid Governorate during a meeting today discussed the possibility of preparing a comprehensive plan which would aim at the development of public services in the governorate.

### Aqaba debates development of local services

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — The Executive Council of Aqaba during a meeting today discussed moves necessary for the development of the public services in the city and a number of neighbouring villages.

### USSR Tourism Minister to visit Amman

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — The Soviet Minister of Tourism will arrive here next month on a several-days visit, at the invitation of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ghaleb Barakat. They will hold talks on tourist cooperation between the two countries.

### Delegation to attend Arab Civil Aviation Council

AMMAN, Jan. 18 (JNA). — A civil aviation delegation, headed by the Director General of Civil Aviation Sharif Ghazi Rakan will leave here for Cairo on Friday to attend the seven-day meetings of the Arab Civil Aviation Council. The executive committee for the council has prepared the working papers of the meeting. The committee comprises members from Jordan, Oman, Morocco, and Sudan.

### Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF CO.	Shares traded	Volume traded in JD	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling ask
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	1,000	750	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Arab Bank	5,000	300	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	—
Jordan Cement Factory	1,000	120	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	—	—
Jordan Cement Factory	10,000	3,200	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,100	—	—
Banking Bank	1,000	200	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	—	—
General Trading Co.	1,000	50	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	—	—

# Heath feels the majority wants to see Sadat's move succeed, quickly

Editor's note: Edward Heath, who just returned from a visit to the Middle East, sizes up what he feels will be necessary in order for the "best chance in 30 years to succeed." The article is reprinted in full from the Jan. 15, 1978 issue of the Sunday Times.

"I TOOK a great leap forward," said President Sadat, speaking to me in Aswan ten days ago of his personal initiative in going to meet Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister of Israel, in Jerusalem. "The problem about that," I replied "is that you have to make sure that you land on the bank on the other side. If you don't there is a nasty splash and you may go under."

President Assad of Syria with whom I spent a whole evening in Damascus discussing this dramatic move challenges the right of President Sadat to have taken this initiative on his own. He claims that as Syria and Egypt fought together in the Middle East wars such action can only be taken by one of them if the other agrees. Admittedly he was informed beforehand by President Sadat of his visit to Jerusalem but he was not consulted. He argues too that the great majority of Arabs do not approve of the initiative. He is convinced that the Geneva Conference was with- in sight of a settlement which has now been delayed rather than advanced. I suspect that in his heart President Assad feels that the initiative will fail and he wishes to have no association with it.

Will President Sadat's great leap forward land firmly on the other bank? After talking to many people in the Arab countries most directly concerned, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, my judgment is that the great majority wants to see his initiative succeed and do so speedily. Of course the announcement came as a shock to them. As they recovered from it many of them felt alienated at this visit by a head of state to a country whose existence they did not recognise and with whom they are still technically at war. Even one so balanced and steady as King Hussein of Jordan confessed it took him some time to cool off. Now, the general view is that whether the initiative was right or wrong, it should be supported. I was in Jerusalem when President Sadat's visit was an-

nounced. It was something for which Israeli prime ministers had always asked. Yet everyone was taken aback. Few could believe even 48 hours before that the visit would actually take place. When it did their spontaneous enthusiasm showed that they too shared the same yearning for peace as the Arabs.

### If failure

In the event of failure, no one I met has any doubt that the Arab World will become so cynical about both the genuineness of the Israeli desire for a settlement and the willingness of Europe and the United States to support a real attempt to secure this by the Arab leaders that these countries would turn instead to the Soviet Union for supplies and make yet a further military attempt to regain their land from the Israelis. Acutely aware of the recent Soviet activities in the Horn of Africa and their advance in the south of the continent there are few in Saudi Arabia who want to see an opportunity provided for a further extension of Soviet influence. Nor can this be in the interests of the Western World.

President Sadat and King Khaled of Saudi Arabia both see the provision of a home for the Palestinians as the crux of the whole negotiation. If an understanding can be reached on this, then the other problems — Sinai, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and even Jerusalem — would fall into place. He acknowledges the deep and genuine fears of the Israelis about the creation of a new and independent Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan.

To these anxieties there are two answers. First, that when the Palestinian state has been created the supporters of the PLO will have achieved their purpose and there will be no need for the extremists. They will have to accept the responsibility for running their own affairs; the moderates will be in control. Furthermore, far from having the resources with

which to attack Israel, the Palestinian state would not be viable without a close connection either with the Jordanians or with the Israelis. Given the choice there is no doubt to which they would turn.

The other approach to the problems raised by the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank accepts that there should be a transition period of up to five years at the beginning of which Israeli forces would be withdrawn and replaced by an international force. At the end of the period Palestinians would decide by a plebiscite whether or not they wished to be entirely independent or linked to either Jordan or Israel. This interim period would enable those refugees who wanted to do so to return to this area. All are agreed that a final settlement of the refugee question must be part of an overall agreement. No one doubted that the cost of resettlement or paying reparations could be met and that the wealthier Arab countries would be prepared to contribute.

The provision of an international force poses difficult problems. Whether on its past record a United Nations force would be acceptable to Israel must be doubtful. American forces are an alternative but this would no doubt invite a demand from the Soviet Union, as co-Chairman of the Geneva Conference, to share equally with them. This would not be attractive to anyone.

A third possibility, is a European force. The Arab leaders with whom I discussed this welcomed it as the most desirable development but I pointed out that no European government would wish to undertake this task unless it were at the express request of the parties concerned. No one in Europe has any desire to be accused of pushing their way back militarily into the Middle East. To this, one Egyptian minister commented: "It really is rather unreasonable if you say you won't come back now we ask you to, just because we kicked you out when we didn't want you."

### Outcome in the balance

Today the outcome of President Sadat's initiative is in the balance. Everything depends on two things; firstly, on Israel making a clear and unambiguous response to President Sadat's initiative that she will carry out her obligations under United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and withdraw from the occupied territories; secondly, in all parties involved working out speedily the arrangements to replace the Israeli occupation forces. Fore-

time. Their leaders should state clearly not only that they strongly support President Sadat's initiative but that this is the best chance we have had for thirty years of ensuring a permanent peace in the Middle East. If it is lost it cannot recur for many a long day. At any moment war might break out again as a result of a misunderstanding by either side. The whole area could drift under Soviet influence.

The heads of government should demand that Israel



Mr. Edward Heath

most among these must be arrangements for ensuring the security not only of Israel but of the Arab countries involved. I have no doubt after talking to the defence ministers of both Israel and Egypt that this can be done.

The Israelis should now re-examine their negotiating tactics. The announcements made since President Sadat's visit about extending or at least strengthening Jewish settlements in Sinai and on the West Bank have more than irked the Arab negotiators. They have led many to question the Israeli's integrity. One of those present at the meeting at Ismailia told me he had not realised until then how little the Israelis understood about the working of the Arab mind.

### U.S., European responsibility

The United States and the European governments carry a heavy responsibility at this

should carry out her obligations and that in recognising her existence for the first time the Arab countries should be mindful of her needs and even generous in meeting them. Only in that way can countries live together as good neighbours. Looking back on it President Carter may see that it was a mistake to become involved in a variety of confusing statements about the future of the Palestinians.

President Sadat believes that success requires a settlement during the next two to three months. Without that the momentum will be lost. At the moment this is in the balance. The stakes are high for all of us. We can bring peace and greater prosperity to the people of the Middle East or we can risk Soviet infiltration and the ever-present danger of conflict. Europe and the United States can tip the balance in favour of success. We too must make our great leap forward.

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# U.S. energy secretary asks Saudi help in building oil reserves

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 18 (R). — The possibility of Saudi Arabia helping the United States store up a one billion barrel strategic oil reserve was discussed during a visit here by U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, it was reported yesterday. The daily newspaper Al Youm quoted Mr. Schlesinger in an interview as saying it was up to the Saudi leaders to decide whether they would like to assist the American effort.

Mr. Schlesinger deeded reports here that differences had emerged during the five day visit.

The energy secretary said the talks were of an exploratory nature and were not aimed at reaching common policies.

President Carter has announced plans to build up the reserve by 1985.

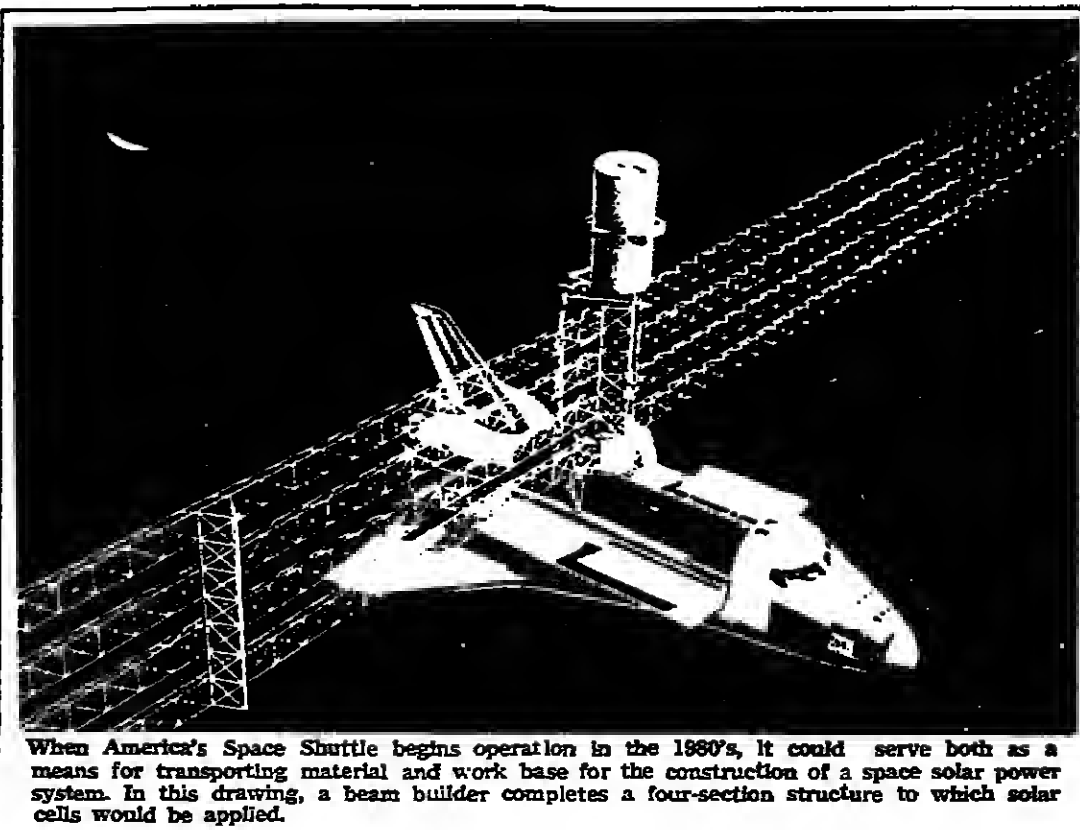
Mr. Schlesinger's visit included talks with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

The secretary told the newspaper that maintaining peace in the Gulf takes a special and continuous place in American foreign policy.

He said the United States

must remain the major power facing the Soviet Union. "There are only two great powers maintaining the world balance. The United States must play a decisive role in maintaining this balance," he added.

"Maintaining Middle East peace means maintaining the independence of the governments of the area, including the Gulf."



When America's Space Shuttle begins operation in the 1980's, it could serve both as a means for transporting material and work base for the construction of a space solar power system. In this drawing, a beam builder completes a four-section structure to which solar cells would be applied.

# Action called for against countries erecting barriers to British exports

LONDON, Jan. 18 (R). — An all-party parliamentary committee called on the government to take strong action against developing countries which have erected barriers against British exports.

The committee suggested that aid to some countries might be stopped and quotas altered to restrict their exports to Britain.

In a report on trade and aid published today the committee

set out tables showing trading barriers erected by some developing countries. They included Brazil, which imposes a 205 per cent import duty on cotton cloth as against a European community duty of 13-15 per cent.

Other countries mentioned included Argentina, with 200 per cent and Egypt with 120-145 per cent import duty on cotton.

The report "recommends the strongest possible action against those middle income countries which pursue such liberal policies."

# EEC agrees to better terms for Cypriot farm exports

BRUSSELS, Jan. 18 (R). — Foreign ministers of the Common Market countries yesterday agreed to offer Cyprus more favourable terms for its agricultural exports to the EEC, community officials said.

But France and Italy, concerned to protect their own negotiating positions on Mediterranean farm produce, wanted concessions to the island to be limited in time and to diminish gradually.

The ministers were reacting to a suggestion from the EEC's Executive Commission that better terms be offered to Cy-

prus than at last month's talks here, which were broken off by Nicosia.

EEC officials said West Germany, Denmark and Holland lined up behind Britain's long-standing insistence that special terms be made to Cyprus, especially because it was important to Europe not to upset its economy at a delicate moment in the search for political settlement on the divided island.

Cyprus Finance Minister Andreas Patsalides conferred later with Mr. Frank Judd, Secretary of State at the British Foreign Office.

British officials said Mr. Judd urged him to resume the negotiations with the EEC, following up the more favourable atmosphere for Cyprus at yesterday's ministerial meeting.

Cyprus is especially concerned to preserve tariff concessions on potatoes, table grapes, Cyprus sherry and grape must, they added.

Until the end of last year Cyprus benefited from Commonwealth preferences in its trade with Britain, by far its largest EEC customer, but with the end of Britain's five-year transition to full commu-

nity membership new trade terms had to be negotiated.

Cyprus rejected the conditions offered last month as totally unacceptable, and President Spyros Kyprianou wrote to EEC leaders in emphatic language to seek a better deal.

British Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen said no new mandate had formerly been given to the EEC Commission, but the situation was "unlocked" and it would now have greater flexibility in talks with Cyprus.

It was also up to Cyprus to come back to the negotiating table, he told reporters.

Dr. Owen said that while the issue was a marginal one for the community it was crucial for Cyprus, 87 per cent of whose exports to the EEC are of farm produce.

Dr. Owen said it was hoped negotiations could be resumed soon in time for the commission to come back to the ministers next month with an agreement already worked out to seek their approval.

It was important to move fast because the planting season would shortly begin in Cyprus, which exports potatoes, grapes, wines, citrus fruit and carrots to the EEC.

# Nigerian, Kuwaiti oil ministers meet

KUWAIT, Jan. 18 (R). — Nigerian Oil Minister Muhammad Buhari held talks yesterday with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdul Mutaleb Al Kazimi during a brief four-hour visit to Kuwait.

U.S. congressman

calls for lifting

of Cuban blockade

Officials said the two men discussed oil issues in the light of last month's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Venezuela which left oil prices frozen for the first half of 1978.

Col. Buhari also conveyed a message of condolence from Nigerian Head of State Olusegun Obasanjo on the death of the emir, Sheikh Sabah Al Salim Al Sabah, on Dec. 31.

Col. Buhari, a member of the high-level Nigerian mission currently visiting Iran, later returned to Tehran after his short stay in Kuwait.

# Iraq, Spain sign economic protocol

BAGHDAD, Jan. 18 (R). — Spanish Commerce Minister Juan Antonio Garcia Diaz left Baghdad today after signing an economic cooperation protocol, the Iraq News Agency reported.

During this three-day visit, Senor Garcia had talks with Iraqi officials on closer bilateral cooperation in the fields of commerce, communications and tourism.

# Heathrow undergoes multimillion £ facelift to prepare for the 1980s

London's Heathrow Airport is undergoing multimillion-pound improvements in readiness for the 1980s. The cancellation of the Maplin airport project, a decline in the growth of air traffic due to higher fuel costs and the general economic situation worldwide has led the British Airports Authority (BAA) to make a big review of its programme for the next ten years.

LONDON (LPS) — In a forecast published in a development plan report, the BAA assumes that "significant growth" will not resume until 1978.

It says: "Programmes for alterations to existing facilities have been adjusted and with no new airport on the horizon all facilities have had to be critically examined. The main effect on the planning of Heathrow is to extend the period during which it continues to develop."

The number of airlines using Heathrow and the wide range of services operated contribute to its position as Europe's dominant hub airport. Until 1985 Heathrow is expected to retain this position, even though a significant proportion of traffic is expected to be absorbed by London's second airport at Gatwick, 55 kms. south of the city.

Estimating a possible increase in capacity to 50 million passengers a year at Heathrow, the BAA has had to consider large scale expansion to the west. And the building of a fourth terminal is one of the most exciting projects to be undertaken for some years. It will most certainly be needed to meet the forecast growth in traffic.

(In 1975 the total number of movements at the four major airports to southern England — Heathrow, Stansted, Gatwick and Luton — was 350,000, of which Heathrow handled 73 per cent.)

With the fourth terminal in operation Heathrow should be able to handle between 35 and 40 million passengers a year, and this together with the capacity at Gatwick should be sufficient to meet demand on the two airports up to 1985.

Ever since its early days, when Heathrow consisted of a few tents and a single runway, constant development has been necessary, to keep pace with the growth of air traffic and the demands of the air traveller.

There has rarely been a time when some constructional programme was not under way.

The trends in aircraft design, travel patterns and increase in investment in civil aviation have all played

their part in the airport's gradual reconstruction.

Preliminary studies have already been made for the building of the fourth terminal. Assessments have been made of the size and scale of the facilities that could be provided, including plans for new access and car parking.

2,000 passengers an hour

When fully developed the terminal would be capable of handling about 2,000 passengers an hour each way — the equivalent to six to eight million passengers annually.

The building would have 20 stands for wide bodied jets, or 25 for smaller planes for a short haul operation if required. The detailed design of the terminal would be based on the type of traffic to be handled.

Whether to programme for long haul, short haul or a mix of both depends largely on the scale of the traffic transferred to Gatwick. Even with the new terminal in operation, major surgery in the existing central area terminals will be needed for the super-sonic 1980s.

Plans for terminal 1 include an extension of the departures baggage sorting area, enlargement of the arrivals, immigration and baggage areas, expansion of the departures forecourt, and improvements to catering and group travel facilities.

With these developments the terminal is expected to have an hourly arrival capacity of 1850 international and 1,100 domestic passengers. This is equivalent to about nine million international and four million domestic passengers a year.

Improving the flow

Terminal 2, which handles the traffic of foreign short haul airlines, is already undergoing intensive improvements. Alterations to the check in area have already improved the flow of passengers arriving in London. Further work is on the drawing board to increase the capacity of the immigration queueing areas, the departure baggage area and catering facilities.

With these developments the terminal is expected to have an annual throughput of nine million passengers.

Large scale work to the biggest and most complex passenger building — terminal 3 — will cost the airport almost £7 million. The work, which is split between two contracts, is expected to be completed by July, 1978.

The first contract, worth £3,361,000, is for widening and extending an existing aircraft pier. The 160 metre extension will provide five additional gate rooms and

square metres of office accommodation will be let. Terminal 3 handles the traffic of the long haul international airlines including British Airways Overseas Division. The capacity of the existing facilities is assessed at 3,000 passengers an hour for arrivals and 2,700 departures. In 1975 6.7 million passengers passed through the terminal.

New airside coach station

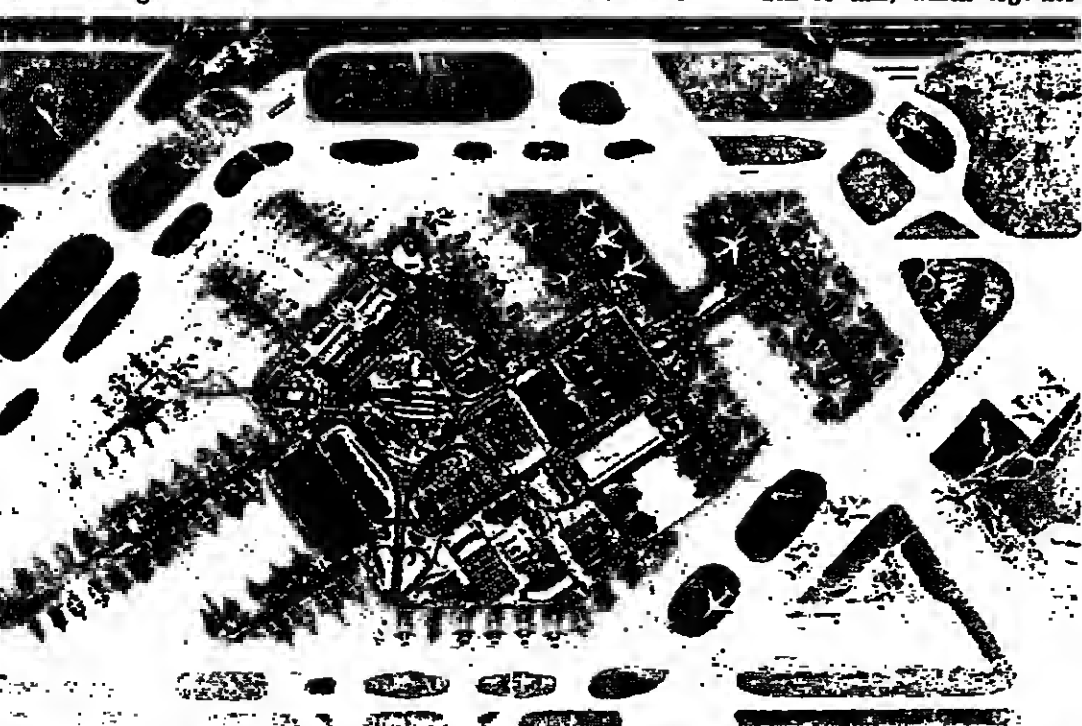
A new airside coach station has already been built and work will start short-

schemes it is difficult to see where any further expansion in the central area can take place.

Getting in and out

Getting into Heathrow has been a problem in itself in the past. Comprehensive studies of surface traffic in and out of the airport were carried out in 1966 and 1971.

For passengers the three principal means of transport in the terminal areas are private car, airline coach or taxi, which together



View from the air of London's Heathrow Airport which is having a multimillion pound facelift to prepare it for the 1980s.

boarding points, and a new moving walkway for passengers.

The second contract, worth £3,233,000, has six features:

(1) A pedestrian bridge linking the multi-storey car park with the arrivals building first floor.

(2) Widening the first floor access to immigration controls and provision of a single large entrance to replace the multi-entry points.

(3) A public waiting gallery with new flight information boards, seating and buffet.

(4) Relocating ground floor facilities such as the crows agents' kiosk, bar, buffet and left luggage office.

(5) Redesigning the customs accommodation and control areas to give more space for baggage reclaim.

(6) Construction of a three storey annex with an undercover walkway and covered bays for airline coaches, buses and other transport services. Some 2,600

ly on alterations to the landside of the building.

With the improvements it is expected the terminal will have an increased capacity of 3800 passengers an hour each way — equivalent to about ten million a year.

The proposed office block will help meet the demand for central area accommodation. But because of pressure on the limited amount of land available, any further offices or accommodation for ancillary purposes will be limited to essential airport requirements says the BAA.

Space in the central area is in short supply and the BAA aims to keep all new structural developments for offices and accommodation outside that area. The demand has well exceeded supply in recent years.

An office block is being constructed adjacent to terminal 2, and terminal 1 requirements are being looked at. Outside of those two

account for 83 per cent of the total increased road congestion over the past three years, however, has led the BAA to promote the use of public transport. Positive steps to minimise congestion include the construction of pedestrian subways, moving walkways and the opening last December of a new underground railway station connecting the airport with central London.

It has been estimated that during a busy summer day in 1975 the number of vehicle movements into and out of the airport totalled about 90,000.

Clearly, during the next five or six years Heathrow is not going to stand still, but will keep pace with the fast moving world of the super-sonic age air commuter. Implementation of its redevelopment plans should lead to a smoother passage through customs, more space in baggage areas and quicker, more efficient access to the airport.

# Mobil develops new process for converting coal into petrol

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (R). — America's huge coal reserves could be used to power motorcars within the decade using a new process developed by Mobil Oil Corporation scientists, the company says.

The company recently demonstrated a small pilot plant for converting coal into high-octane petrol.

The breakthrough involves converting methanol derived from coal by well-tested processes, according to Dr. John Wise, Vice President of the Mobil Research and Development Corporation.

It is the final step — from methanol into quality petrol — that has not been feasible before, Dr. Wise says.

The Germans developed a si-

milar system in the Second World War, but later abandoned it because it was expensive and produced low-octane petrol.

The German system is now used only by South Africa, which is coal-rich and oil-poor, Mobil says.

The company estimates its new process can produce petrol at a cost of 40 to 50 cents higher per gallon than petrol.

Petrol made from coal cannot compete today with petrol derived from crude oil, the company says. But Dr. Wise observed that "the day will come when the worldwide supply of crude oil cannot meet the potential demand. That's when the U.S. will turn to its abundant reserves of coal for

liquid fuels. We plan to have our technology all ready to go."

Mobil suggested that once the process becomes economical — possibly as a result of rising crude oil prices — it could supply the needs of motorcars for many years to come until a "more exotic energy source" can take over.

The oil company said the U.S. Department of Energy was backing the development programme through cost-sharing contracts, and that Mobil plans to build a larger demonstration plant that could convert up to 100 barrels of methanol into petrol each day.

# Japan threatens to reduce offer of import tariff cuts

TOKYO, Jan. 18 (R). — Japan today threatened to reduce its offer of import tariff cuts averaging 42 per cent on 2,630 manufactured goods if the European Economic Community (EEC) insisted on smaller overall reductions in multilateral trade talks.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry, only hours after announcing Japan's offer, said the cuts would be reduced to less than 40 per cent if the EEC went ahead with a proposal to seek lesser cuts.

The ministry was commenting on the outcome of a meeting of EEC ministers yesterday, which gave its negotiators at General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks in Geneva next Friday the go-ahead to follow a U.S. proposal for 40 per cent cuts.

But the EEC ministers also made clear the nine-nation community would probably seek even smaller cuts in deference to French insistence that 40 per cent was too high

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Dutch guilder	138.70/139.50
Belgian franc (for every ten)	95.50/96.40
Swedish crown	67.30/67.70



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# China seen to push for Cambodian-Viet border negotiations

PEKING, Jan. 18 (R). — A senior Chinese government figure arrived unexpectedly in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh today, prompting speculation among diplomats here of possible moves to get Cambodia and Vietnam to negotiate their border dispute. The surprise visit follows an uncompromising speech by Cambodian Prime Minister Pol Pot, broadcast over Radio Phnom Penh yesterday, in which he made no reference to peace talks but repeated Cambodia's claim that it vanquished the Vietnamese on Jan. 6.

Mme. Teog Ying-chao, widow of Chinese Premier Chou En-lai and a Vice Chairman of China's National People's Congress (parliament) arrived in Cambodia today by special plane accompanied by Foreign Affairs Vice Minister Han Nianlung and Mr. Shen Ping, Director of the ministry's Asian

Affairs Department. Diplomatic sources here said Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Phan Nien was in Peking. He is said to be a specialist in border problems. The sources suggested that the Vietnamese vice minister, who is understood to have arrived in Peking on Jan. 9, had

come to China in an effort to establish contact with the Cambodians. But a Cambodian Embassy spokesman said there had been no talks with the Vietnamese in the Chinese capital.

Meanwhile, in his major address yesterday, Cambodian Premier Pot made no reference to peace talks.

"If Vietnam stops its intention to attack, subvert ... and take Cambodia as its satellite in an Indochina federation, stops its policy of a big country attacking a small country ... we will have no problem in maintaining friendly relations," Mr. Pot said.

The premier, who was addressing a meeting in Phnom Penh to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Cambodia's revolutionary army, forcefully repeated Cambodia's claim that its troops had defeated the Vietnamese, killing or wounding more than 26,000 of them.

Western sources in Bangkok are sceptical about the Cambodian claim, which was first made as Vietnamese troops were consolidating positions inside strategic border areas, including the "Parrot's Beak" salient, midway between Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).



The new addition to the British Royal family, Master Peter Mark Andrew Phillips, held by his mother Princess Anne, after his christening at Buckingham Palace, London last month. Also seated is Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, only surviving grandchild of Queen Victoria and the baby's great-great-aunt. Standing (left to right) are: Mr. and Mrs. Peter Phillips, parents of Capt. Mark Phillips; Queen Elizabeth II, the baby's grandmother; Capt. Mark Phillips; Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Prince Philip. (BIS photo)

## Soares' Socialists approve coalition with conservatives

LISBON, Jan. 18 (R). — Portugal's Socialist Party today gave the green light to caretaker Prime Minister Mario Soares to form a new government that would include conservative ministers.

Dr. Soares told reporters after an all-night meeting of his party's ruling National Committee that it had voted by 96 to one, with 23 abstentions, to back an agreement with the conservative Centre Democrats on a government platform.

Dr. Soares said this deal was "more or less established."

The Socialist leader said he would report to President Antonio Ramalho Eanes today on the results of his talks with the Conservatives to end the country's six-week political crisis. The crisis began on Dec. 8 with the defeat in parliament of his 16-month-old minority Socialist government over its austerity programme.

It was not immediately clear whether Gen. Eanes would formally appoint Dr. Soares as prime minister today — the deadline set for his answer.

Dr. Soares referred to his deal with the Centre Democrats as more or less complete, while Centre Democrat leader Prof. Diogo Freitas do Amaral said some points remain to be cleared up.

A deal with the Centre Democrats, Portugal's third largest party, would give Dr. Soares 143 of the seats in the 263-member Assembly of the Republic.

Dr. Soares has been striving for a Socialist-led government including what he calls "personalities" from the non-Communist parties.

He has also sought another inter-party agreement with the Communists who control more than 50 per cent of Portugal's organised labour force.

He blamed both the Communists and the centre-right Social Democrats, runners up to the Socialists in the 1976 elections, for blocking a wider deal.

But the party resolution early today gave him authority to make further attempts to reach agreement with the Communists and the Social Democrats.

## Patriotic Front guerrillas claim control over 40% of Rhodesian land

MAPUTO, Jan. 18 (R). — Black Rhodesian guerrillas based in Mozambique said yesterday that 40 per cent of the breakaway British colony now had been "semi-liberated."

A communiqué issued by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) also said that 1,039 Rhodesian troops had been killed between June and October, 1977.

The statement was published as ZANU leader Robert Mugabe and his co-chairman of the Patriotic Front, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, pressed on with discussions about how to intensify the fight against Premier Ian Smith's white government in Rhodesia.

Guerrilla sources said "semi-liberated" meant that, while nationalist forces controlled the ground, they remained vulnerable to attack by Rhodesia's largely obsolescent but still potent air force.

The communiqué said Patriotic Front forces now covered more than two-thirds of Rhodesia.

Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe at their talks yesterday appeared not to have decided yet whether to take up British Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen's invitation to meet him.

He has suggested an early meeting to discuss Anglo-American proposals to secure black majority rule in Rhodesia.

Diplomatic sources said a similar invitation was turned down last December at Mr. Mugabe's insistence although Mr. Nkomo was in favour of attending.

Mr. Nkomo said no statement would be issued until the talks end on Thursday.

Mr. Mugabe said earlier that he and Mr. Nkomo were still discussing routine Patriotic Front business.

## Cypriot settlement talks in 2 months, reckons Waldheim

VIENNA, Jan. 18 (R). — U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said today that negotiations on a Greek-Turkish division of territory in Cyprus could start in two months.

The resumption of deadlocked discussions on the island's political future depended on new proposals promised by Turkish premier Bulent Ecevit, Dr. Waldheim told reporters in Vienna.

The secretary general stopped in his native Austria after a 12-day tour that took him to Ankara, Athens and Nicosia in efforts to get the negotiations restarted.

Inter-communal talks which began in Vienna three years ago reached deadlock last April, but Dr. Waldheim today said: "I hope there is a new spirit."

There was no agreement yet on a date for new talks, but they could resume in Vienna sometime in March "if all goes well."

Dr. Waldheim said Turkish Prime Minister Ecevit had promised concrete proposals on territory and revised plans for a new Cypriot constitution within about two weeks.

This was a "positive development" because it was the first time the Turkish side had expressed readiness to table concrete proposals on territory, including a map, since the two communities began searching for a way to end 14 years of divided rule in the Mediterranean island.

The sixth round of inter-communal talks broke down in Vienna last year when the Greek-Cypriot community offered the Turks about 20 per cent of the total territory, or half of what they control.

Dr. Waldheim said the promised Turkish proposals would be submitted to him by Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Denktaş after close consultation with the Ankara government. "I hope the door for a new negotiating round can be opened," Dr. Waldheim said.

The issue of how much territory the Turkish community was willing to surrender was the "key question," and he hoped the Turkish proposals would allow substantive discussions to get started.

## Denktaş in Ankara for talks on Cyprus

ANKARA, Jan. 18 (R). — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş arrived here today for two days of talks with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and government officials. They are expected to focus on a reopening of the inter-communal talks in Cyprus.

His full ceremonial welcome with military band and guard of honour contrasted with his previous low-key reception here under the previous government of Mr. Suleyman Demirel.

Before leaving Nicosia today Mr. Denktaş said he was carrying "concrete" proposals on constitutional and territorial aspects of the Cypriot issue for discussion with Mr. Ecevit. The proposals were finalised during a three-hour meeting yesterday with his administration, Mr. Denktaş said.

## Brezhnev reportedly suffers from cancer

BONN, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev has cancer of the hip bone and his state of health may force a postponement of his long-planned visit to West Germany, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said today. The newspaper said the 72-year-old head of state was also suffering from stomach complications which had developed recently. The paper said President Brezhnev was now being temporarily replaced as head of state by Premier Alexei Kosygin and as party secretary general by the Central Committee Secretary Mr. Kirilenko. The report said it was unlikely Mr. Brezhnev would be able to visit West Germany before next September.

## Italian president begins formal consultations to choose premier

ROME, Jan. 18 (AFP). — Italian President Giovanni Leone was consulting the heads of the Communist and Christian Democratic parties today prior to designating a new premier.

Christian Democratic members of parliament yesterday unanimously nominated outgoing Premier Giulio Andreotti to succeed himself.

President Leone, also a Christian Democrat, would probably designate Mr. Andreotti by tomorrow night or early on Friday, observers said, after going through the formality of consulting heads of all parties.

But that would only be the relatively easy first step towards solving a political crisis

is expected to be long and tortuous.

The outgoing Christian Democratic minority cabinet stayed in power mainly thanks to Communist abstention in votes of parliament. But the two parties now seem to be totally opposed.

The ruling party now refuses to form an emergency coalition government including the Communists.

Communist leaders yesterday hardened their position by once again demanding to join the cabinet, and threatening to form a coalition themselves with other parties.

Some newspaper commentators today forecast that Mr. Andreotti would fail to form

a new government and, in what amounts to a scouting mission for his party, would then let some other leader of the party make a second attempt in the light of what his failure had taught.

## Britain's acquittal of torture charges "stupefies" Ireland

DUBLIN, Jan. 18 (AFP). — The Irish government said today it was "stupefied" that Britain had been acquitted of torture charges in Northern Ireland by the European Human Rights Court.

A government spokesman said the Irish Republic was hoping that its accusation of torture against Britain would be recognised by the European court following the European Human Rights Commission inquiry.

The commission had not hesitated to label the British army's interrogation methods as torture, the spokesman added. In Belfast, Mr. Gerry Fitt, leader of the Social Democratic Labour Party, declared that the court's verdict was simply a play on words. "I fail to see how inhuman and degrading treatment is not regarded as torture," said Mr. Fitt, whose party has considerable support among Ulster Catholics.

## Ruling French coalition on schism's way?

PARIS, Jan. 18 (AFP). — France's four-party government coalition yesterday saw its popularity rating among voters dip to a record low as internal dissension reached a critical level.

The Paris daily Le Figaro published a survey which indicated that 44 per cent of French voters backed the government parties, against 51 per cent who supported parties on the left.

The poll, published less than two months before the March 12 first-round voting in national legislative elections, was taken before relations among the four government parties deteriorated dramatically over the balance of their electoral forces.

The inter-party strife culminated on Monday in an urgent appeal for unity by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who warned that continued infighting could prove "suicidal" in the battle against the French left.

But just hours after the president's appeal, Paris Mayor and former Premier Jacques Chirac, who heads the Gaullist Rally for the Republic, lashed out at his party's coalition partners, accusing the Giscardian Republican Party, the Centreists and the pro-government Radicals of seeking an anti-Gaullist coalition.

M. Chirac went even further and accused certain coalition party leaders — with a clear reference to M. Giscard d'Estaing himself — of extending a hand to Socialist leader François Mitterrand in a "rain attempt" to build a new coalition which would include some members of the Socialist Party.

He denounced such an attempt and demanded that the coalition parties clarify their position vis-à-vis the Socialists. "You must answer yes or no. We (Gaullists) say no, never," M. Chirac said.

The Socialist publication Letter of Unity, meanwhile, said the idea of a Giscard-Socialist rapprochement was an "absurd dream."

Following the newspaper's poll and M. Chirac's remarks, certain coalition leaders, including Centreist Jean Lecanuet, called for an urgent meeting of political leaders with Premier Raymond Barre in an effort to smooth over differences and to settle on campaign coordination.

Le Figaro recalled the results of a similar poll last month, although conducted under different conditions, in which the government parties were backed by 47 per cent of voters, against 50 per cent for the left.

The left's one per cent gain in the latest poll was attributed to increased backing for the Socialists, while the three-point drop on the government's side was taken away from the Republicans (two points) and the Gaullists (one point).

## Carter: If I do not become best U.S. president, it won't be for lack of trying

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (R). — President Carter was quoted today as saying he was disconcerted by the lack of confidentiality around Washington and felt certain revelations had damaged America's ability to obtain intelligence information from abroad.

In the February issue of the Ladies Home Journal, Mr. Carter said one of the surprises of his presidency "has been the lack of confidentiality around Washington on some matters that I think should not be made public."

"I've been disconcerted at some of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) revelations, for instance, I think they have damaged our ability to obtain intelligence information from other countries."

Summing up his first year in office Mr. Carter said: "The challenges are enormous. That's what makes the job so rewarding. But I'm keeping up with it and I feel confident."

He said if he did not become the best president the U.S. had ever had it would not be because he has not tried.

On his personal life Mr. Carter said the presidency had brought his family even closer together because of a sense of mutual purpose and responsibility.

Mrs. Rosalynn Carter told the magazine her husband was "still the same strong, kind human being I fell in love with."

His youngest son Jeff said: "I don't think the presidency

has changed dad as a father. His tennis game may be better now, and his hair is a bit grayer, but he is still dad."

The magazine said that when the president really gets upset he has been known to impale close aides with a cold stare and it quoted press secretary Jody Powell as saying: "Yes, I get the cold stare every now and then."

It quoted several close associates as praising the president's sense of humour.

Vice President Walter Mondale, it said, finding Mr. Carter unusually lighthearted one morning remarked: "Gee, Mr. President, I'm glad to see you so happy today, any special reason?"

The president grinned widely: "I'm a lot happier now that I realise this job is impossible," he said.

## More Americans liked Carter last year

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (AFP). — President Carter's popularity has continued to fall since October, the quarterly poll by the New York Times and CBS Television has revealed. Of the 1,599 adults questioned between Jan. 8 and 12, 51 per cent were satisfied with Mr. Carter, compared with 66 per cent a year ago. Disenchantment is most rife among the blacks, 6 per cent of whom consider their living standards have dropped since last year. The poll revealed that 81 per cent of Americans think that Mr. Carter cannot control inflation, 74 per cent doubt that he will balance the federal budget, and 54 per cent think he will not reduce unemployment. A third of those questioned did not follow Mr. Carter's recent seven-nation, nine-day tour, a third thought it helped to improve U.S. foreign relations, while the remainder thought it would have no effect on them. Fifty-one per cent disapproved of the Panama Canal treaties, with 29 per cent in favour of them, and 20 per cent without a view.

## World News Briefs

### S. Africa levels homes of 10,000 blacks

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 18 (R). — Bulldozers had last night almost obliterated the centre of the shanty town of Unheli outside Cape Town, as they continued their systematic destruction of squatters' shacks which housed an estimated 10,000 blacks. About 30 armed police kept guard inside the camp as 1,500 squatters stood by under drizzling rain, their meagre piles of belongings beside them and their children and animals playing around the policemen's feet. The destruction of Unheli has been awaited since last August, when white authorities demolished another squatters' camp nearby at Modderdam. The authorities claim that the squatter camps are "illegal and insanitary" and that most of the inhabitants "should be living" in South Africa's black "homelands."

### 29 Moroccans die in 2 Polisario attacks

ALGIERS, Jan. 18 (R). — The Algiers-backed Polisario front guerrilla movement has said it killed 29 Moroccan soldiers in two separate attacks in the Western Sahara and in Morocco last Jan. 7 and 8. The Polisario front, which is fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara from Morocco and Mauritania, said 17 Moroccan troops were killed in the first attack when its guerrillas shelled the Saharan town of Tifariti, according to a Polisario communiqué carried by the official Algerian news agency. On Jan. 8, Polisario forces stormed a Moroccan post in Laghaja, southern Morocco, killing 12 soldiers, the communiqué added.

### OUA holds West Sahara summit in March

LIBREVILLE, Jan. 18 (AFP). — The Organisation of African Unity's (OAU) special summit on the Western Sahara will be held between March 24 and 30, subject to three conditions, it was announced today. The date of the summit was announced at the end of a meeting of the Gabon government and the Political Bureau of the Gabonese Democratic Party headed by the Gabonese President, who is current OAU Chairman, Omar Bongo. A communiqué set the three conditions as: The parties concerned must attend it; a quorum must be achieved by the effective participation of heads of state and government; and the conference costs must be carried entirely by the OAU. The communiqué said these conditions were necessary because of the sacrifices already made by Gabon over the last OAU summit.

### UAE gives radio station to Eritreans

ABU DHABI, Jan. 18 (R). — The United Arab Emirates has donated a broadcasting station to one of the three guerrilla groups fighting for the independence of Eritrea from Ethiopia, the leader of the group, Mohammad Saleh Sabbi, was quoted as saying here last night. Mr. Sabbi, chief of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces (ELF-PLF), told Radio Abu Dhabi the station would be set up in the near future, but he did not say where. It will cover the Red Sea province and surrounding areas, he added.

### U.S. arms sales abroad on the up and up

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (R). — The U.S. Defence Department yesterday estimated that foreign arms sales this year would rise by nearly \$2 billion to a record \$13.2 billion despite President Carter's sales curbs policy. Pentagon Spokesman Tom Ross, who announced the estimate, also said that American weapons sales abroad would rise still further in 1979 to \$13.6 billion. U.S. foreign arms sales for the 1977 financial year, which ended on Oct. 1, totalled \$11.3 billion. In June last year President Carter announced a policy of reducing 1978 arms sales below the 1977 level.